United Nations

Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council demands that military equipment removed by force by Iraq from Kuwaiti side be returned immediately to UNIKOM for destruction; also reiterates demand that Iraq permit UNSCOM and UNIKOM to use own aircraft for transport of personnel into Iraq; again warns that country of serious consequences resulting from continued defiance.

+ Secretary-General reports that about 200 Iraqis yesterday forced their way into ammunition bunkers in Kuwait and removed their contents; Iraqi operation continued today; United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission protests violation.

+ Secretary-General appoints Special Commission of Inquiry to investigate assassination of Hajika Turajlic, a Deputy Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Security Council denounces "outrageous act of terrorism" and urges parties to exercise utmost restrain.

+ Secretary-General, at press conference in Bonn, expressed hope for greater role for Germany in the United Nations; meets Foreign Minister Kinkel and Chancellor Kohl.

+ Security Council "deeply disturbed" by Iraq's recent decision not to allow United Nations to transport its personnel into Iraqi territory using its own aircraft; Iraq describes action as "temporary".

+ Secretary-General reports that situation in Angola "has deteriorated severely" since beginning of year; urges Council to endorse efforts by Special Representative Margaret Anstee to restore cease-fire and relaunch political dialogue.

+ Secretary-General says Salvadoran Government did not fully comply with recommendations of Ad Hoc Committee on purification of Armed Forces concerning the discharging and retiring of 103 officers; calls on President Cristiani to "regularize" situation.

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+ Security Council expresses full support for efforts by Co-Chairmen of International Conference on Yugoslavia to achieve overall political settlement and cessation of hostilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Department of Humanitarian Affairs appeals for $20.4 million in humanitarian assistance to Tajikistan, describing country's economic and political situation as "extremely serious and difficult".

+ Russian Federation's leadership expresses deep concern over continuing military activities along Armenia-Azerbaijan border; calls on conflicting sides to immediately cease hostilities.

+ Palestine Observer to United Nations likens deportation by Israel of over 400 Palestinians to concept of "transfer" or "ethnic cleansing".

+ Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) describes as "preposterous" allegations by Bosnia and Herzegovina of Serbian and Montenegrin aerial combat missions over Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ The five committees of the Security Council Sanctions Committee elect their officers.

+ United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas begins today at Headquarters; to consider new developments in field of cartography which affect sustainable development.

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The Security Council tonight demanded that the military equipment removed by force by Iraq from the six bunkers in Kuwaiti territory be returned immediately to the custody of United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) for destruction.

The Council, in a statement read out by its President, Yoshio Hatano (Japan), also condemned further Iraqi intrusions into the Kuwaiti side of the demilitarized zone on 11 January.

It invited the Secretary-General to explore on an urgent basis the possibilities for restoring UNIKOM to its full strength and to consider the need for rapid reinforcement as set out in his report of 12 June 1991 and to report back to the Council.

The statement also expressed alarm at Iraq's refusal to allow the United Nations to transport the Special Commission (UNSCOM) and UNIKOM personnel into Iraqi territory using its own aircraft.

The Council demanded that Iraq cooperate fully with all the United Nations agencies in carrying out their mandates and warned it of serious consequences that would flow from such continued defiance.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has reported to the Security Council that a party of about 200 Iraqis with trucks and heavy loading equipment forced their way into six ammunition bunkers located in Kuwait and took away most of their contents.

In a special report dated 10 January, the Secretary-General noted that the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM), which had maintained a 24-hour guard over the bunkers, made an effort to prevent the Iraqis but was unable to do so. The Iraqis further continued to dismantle prefabricated buildings and remove parts and other items from the former naval base located on Kuwaiti territory.

Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali said that UNIKOM had protested the Iraqi violation and has lodged a protest with the Iraqi Foreign Ministry noting that the action had contravened the Security Council's decision that the contents of the bunkers should be destroyed by UNIKOM or by a specialized firm acting under UNIKOM's supervision.

The Secretary-General concluded that such developments were taking place at a time when the Security Council was already actively seized of Iraq's ban against United Nations aircraft, adding that they cast doubt on Iraq's continued willingness to cooperate with UNIKOM and to abide by the commitments it had undertaken.

At a press briefing today, Spokesman Joe Sills told correspondents that this morning the Iraqis continued retrieving pre-fab buildings and other items from the former Iraqi naval base, but had not touched the UNIKOM camp.

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The Secretary-General has appointed a Special Commission of Inquiry to investigate into the assassination of a Deputy Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hakija Turajlic, while he was travelling in a United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) vehicle in Sarajevo, the Secretary-General's Spokesman said at a Headquarters news briefing today.

The Special Commission will be jointly headed by Sahabzada Yakub-Khan, a former Foreign Minister of Pakistan and currently serving as the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Western Sahara, and Lieutenant-General Lars-Eric Wahlgren (Sweden), Commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

The other members of the Special Commission will be staff members of the Secretariat and officers serving in the United Nations peace-keeping operations, including an officer nominated by Lieutenant-General Satish Nambiar, Commander of UNPROFOR.

The Secretary-General has asked Mr. Yakub-Khan and General Wahlgren to present him with their preliminary report by the weekend so that he can submit to the Security Council the report requested by it.

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The action was taken following a request by the Security Council on Friday evening that the Secretary-General undertake a full investigation of the incident and report to it without delay. At that meeting, the Council strongly condemned Mr. Turajlic's killing and urged all parties and others concerned to exercise utmost restraint and to refrain from taking any action which might further exacerbate the situation.

The Council was convened following a request by Muhamed Sacirbey, the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations, who pointed out that this blatant act of war against Bosnia and Herzegovina and the United Nations demanded immediate and resolute action to stop the aggression against his country and to stop the use of UNPROFOR's limited mandate as a means to facilitate aggression.

In a separate letter, Mustafa Aksin, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations, stressed that the killing of Mr. Turajlic, which occurred after the latter had greeted at the airport Mr. Orhan Kilercioglu, Minister of State of Turkey, was a further manifestation of the brazen violations of the Serbian forces of all norms of civilized behaviour and a new challenge to UNPROFOR and the United Nations.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed the hope that Germany will play a greater role in the United Nations.

Speaking at a press conference today in Bonn after a brief official visit to Germany, the Secretary-General stressed that the German support for the United Nations peace-keeping efforts had taken many forms and had covered such fields as transport, medical support and policing. However, pointed out the Secretary-General, what was mostly needed was the full participation of Germany in peace-keeping, peacemaking, peace enforcement and peace-building operations.

Earlier today, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany, Klaus Kinkel, to discuss, among other things, the potential role of German troops in United Nations peace-keeping operations and the possible enlargement of the Security Council.

The two also reviewed the situation in Somalia and the second stage of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) in which Mr. Boutros-Ghali expressed the hope that Germany would participate especially in regard to rebuilding the Somalian police.

The Secretary-General gave his assessment of the situation in the former Yugoslavia and expressed his view that the peace process must continue. He also discussed the mission to Israel of Mr. Chinmaya Gharekhan, his Special Representative to the Middle East Peace Talks, and the situation in Angola, Cambodia, El Salvador and South Africa.

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The Foreign Minister expressed hope that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) would move to Bonn.

Later, the Secretary-General had a luncheon with Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

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In a statement issued Friday following consultations of the Security Council, the Council President, Yushio Hatano (Japan), said that the Council was "deeply disturbed" by Iraq's recent decision not to allow the United Nations to transport its personnel into Iraqi territory using its own aircraft.

The Council also reminded Iraq that, in accordance with the agreement on facilities, privileges and immunities between Iraq and the United Nations, the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) are to be allowed, as they determined necessary, to use their own aircraft throughout Iraq and any airfield in Iraq "without interference or hindrance of any kind".

Concerning the United Nations Iraq-Koweit Observation Mission (UNIKOM), the Council reaffirmed Iraq's obligation and commitment to the unrestricted freedom of entry and exit without delay or hindrance of its personnel, property, supplies, equipment, spare parts and means of transportation, in accordance with the terms of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) and the exchange of letters of April and June 1992 between Iraq and the United Nations.

The Council also demanded that Iraq abide by its obligations and cooperate fully with the activities of the Special Commission, the IAEA and UNIKOM, and warned the Government of that country of the serious consequences which would ensue from failure to comply with its obligations.

In a reply dated 10 January and transmitted to the President of the Council by Iraqi Ambassador to the United Nations, Nizar Hamdoon, the Foreign Minister of Iraq, Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, pointed out that the discontinuance of the use of foreign aircraft for its operation was a "temporary decision" dictated by the United States threats to his country.

The allegations that Iraq has stopped or hampered the missions of the Special Commission in Iraq are incorrect, said the Iraqi Foreign Minister, stressing that the dealings of the United Nations with a free and sovereign State "ought to be marked by propriety". "The insolent manner adopted by some of those in charge of United Nations missions is absolutely unacceptable", and "it is this that should be condemned", said the Iraqi Foreign Minister.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has informed the Security Council that the situation in Angola "has deteriorated severely" since the beginning of the year and urged the Council to publicly endorse the efforts of his Special Representative, Miss Margaret Anstee, who "has worked tirelessly to

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establish contacts" between the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) in order to restore the cease-fire and relaunch the political dialogue started in Namibe last November.

In a letter to the Council President, dated 8 January, the Secretary-General said there had been outbreaks of heavy fighting in at least ten provincial capitals and other centres of population with each side accusing the other of initiating the hostilities. In almost all cases, the Secretary-General continued, the outcome had been the destruction of UNITA's premises and its personnel captured and killed in some cases. On the other hand, the Government had been unable to reestablish its administration in many rural areas.

The Secretary-General noted that while his Special Representative had been able to obtain the agreement of both sides to a meeting, a number of proposed locations had been rejected by one side or the other. The Secretary-General has asked the Security Council to appeal to both sides to agree to Miss Anstee's latest proposal for a meeting in the city of Menongue which has not so far been affected by the fighting.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has reported that the commitment by the Salvadoran authorities to discharge and retire 103 Salvadoran officers, in accordance with the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Commission on purification of the Armed Forces within a specified time-frame, had not been fully implemented.

In a letter addressed to the President of the Security Council, dated 7 January, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali pointed out that, after careful consideration of President Cristiani's explanations as to the implementation of the recommendations, he was ready to accept as "satisfactory" the measures adopted by the Salvadoran Government with respect to 87 of the 102 officers covered by the Ad Hoc Commission's recommendations, "even though a number of them do not conform in all respects with those recommendations".

However, said the Secretary-General, the measures adopted in respect to other 15 officers "do not comply with those recommendations and are thus not in conformity with the Peace Accords".

In accordance with the mandate entrusted to the Secretary-General by the Security Council requiring that each side comply fully with all its commitments it has entered into in signing the Peace Accords, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali called on President Cristiani to take early action "to regularize" the position of the 15 officers in respect to whom the recommendations have not yet been fully implemented.

The Ad Hoc Committee had recommended that 103 officers be discharged or retired from the Salvadoran Armed Forces effective 1 January. In a letter addressed to the Secretary-General on 1 January, President Cristiani had indicated that, while the dismissal procedures were being applied to 76

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officers, they were being deferred in other cases during the "transitional period", which is understood to mean during the remainder of President Cristiani's mandate as President of El Salvador.

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The Security Council expressed its full support for the efforts of the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, to achieve an overall political settlement and cessation of hostilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In a statement read out by its President, Yoshio Hatano (Japan), on Friday, 8 January, the Council warned any party which would oppose such a settlement against the consequences of that attitude. It reaffirmed the need to respect fully the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Council stated that lack of cooperation and non-compliance with relevant Council resolutions would compel it to review the situation in an urgent and serious manner and to consider further necessary measures.

It also fully endorsed the view of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali that it was the duty of all the parties involved in the conflict to cooperate with the Co-Chairmen in bringing the conflict to a swift end. It appealed to them to cooperate to the fullest with the peace efforts.

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The Department of Humanitarian Affairs made an urgent preliminary appeal to the international community to make available $20.4 million in humanitarian assistance to Tajikistan, now in a state of civil war. The appeal would be updated and revised in light of future developments and new assessments as they become available, the Secretary-General's Spokesman told correspondents at a Headquarters press briefing today.

The Spokesman, reading from a report by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, said the economic and political situation in Tajikistan is extremely serious and difficult. It is the poorest and least developed of all the former USSR Republics and the collapse of the old centralized system of distribution had effectively left the country bereft of all basic commodities.

The conditions he said, have dramatically deteriorated in the last few months and more recently were worsening day by day. Fighting has intensified, particularly in the southern provinces along the border with Afghanistan, and in the capitol Dushanbe. The country is in a state of civil war whose consequences might have wider implications. There were currently 400,000 internally displaced people and refugees throughout the country, besides a large number of them who had crossed into Afghanistan.

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Food supplies, medicine and surgical instruments were in short supply in the entire country and there is a great shortage of fuel, which disrupts transportation, agriculture and heating in the severely cold winter months.

Under the overall coordination of the Department, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO) and International Organization for Migration will participate in relief efforts in Tajikistan, the Spokesman said. The International Committee of the Red Cross and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies were already helping displaced persons and refugees in the country and would collaborate with the United Nations agencies involved.

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The Russian leadership expresses "deep concern" over continuing military activities along the Armenia-Azerbaijan border and the shelling of populated areas, according to a press release issued last Friday by the Russian Federation's Foreign Ministry and forwarded to the United Nations by the permanent mission of that country.

The text calls on the conflicting sides to immediately cease the shelling of peaceful settlements that cause human casualties, to refrain altogether from expanding the zone of conflict and to move toward the end of the fratricidal war in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Evidently, it is high time to agree on a cease-fire and to begin serious negotiations on settling the conflict by political means, says the statement.

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The Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations has described Israel's deportation of over four hundred Palestinians as being parallel to the concept of "transfer" and other theories such as "ethnic cleansing".

In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 8 January, the Permanent Observer, Nasser Al-Kidwa, said the deportation constituted a form of collective punishment and has had a detrimental effect on the peace process currently underway. He said it was inconceivable for the peace process to continue and succeed as long as such a situation was not brought to an end. The international community and the Security Council were duty-bound to compel Israel to abide by its obligations under the United Nations Charter and to guarantee respect of international law, especially the Fourth Geneva Convention, he said.

Meanwhile, the Group of Arab States has called on the Security Council to take strong action for the full enforcement of resolution 799 (1992) by speedily adopting a new resolution under Chapter VII of the Charter. Resolution 799 demanded that Israel ensure the safe and immediate return to the occupied territories of all those deported.

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In a letter to the Council, through Libya as its current Chairman, the Arab Group said such a course of action would help to ensure the continuation of the peace process and preserve the prestige and credibility of the Security Council.

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Dragomir Djokic, Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia to the United Nations, in a letter to the President of the Security Council, has said that the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina has put forward "unfounded accusations" and "falsehoods" pertaining to the involvement of the forces and aircraft from the Republic of Yugoslavia on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The letter, dated 7 January, says the "preposterous" accusation that, between 23 and 27 December 1992, Serbian and Montegrin forces carried out 24 combat missions over the region of Srebrenica with fixed-wing aircraft is a "gross fabrication."

As in the previous instances, Mr. Djokic notes, the sole goal is to condemn the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for its alleged role in the civil war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, "in which, in fact, it is not a party, and consequently to provoke foreign military intervention."

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The five committees of the Security Council Sanctions Committee charged with monitoring the implementation of Council-established sanctions elected their officers for 1993 at successive meetings last week.

The Committee to monitor the implementation of the mandatory arms embargo against South Africa elected Jamsheed K.A. Marker (Pakistan) as its Chairman. Terence C. O'Brien (New Zealand) was elected Chairman of the Committee which monitors the implementation of mandatory sanctions against Iraq.

In the Committee which monitors the arms embargo against the former Yugoslavia, Ronaldo M. Sardenberg (Brazil) was elected Chairman, while the Committee established to monitor violations of aerial, arms and diplomatic sanctions against Libya elected Andre Erdos (Hungary) as its Chairman.

Shunji Mauryama (Japan) was elected Chairman of the Committee which monitors the weapons and military equipment embargo against Somalia.

Each of the Committees consist of all 15 members of the Security Council.

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The Fifth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas began today at Headquarters to consider new developments in the field of cartography which affect sustainable development. The Conference, which will also review the latest developments relating to politics and management

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of national mapping and charting programmes, is scheduled to continue through 15 January.

The Cartographic Conference last met in 1989, when it adopted a resolution calling for the development of background papers, in collaboration with international scientific and professional organizations, for presentation at this year's session.

William Seltzer, Director of the Statistical Division of the Department, said that a new integrated approach was emerging in the consideration of developmental, social and environmental issues.

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